

STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary – May 24, 2005

Steve Wamback called the meeting to order, then introductions followed.

SWAC Rules/Charter

The group discussed the possibility of developing a new charter. The group also discussed the role of alternates. Are they valuable? If so, keep them informed of important issues in case they are asked to vote (in the absence of the SWAC member).

Mercury Wastes – John Ridgway

Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program is implementing the agency's Mercury Chemical Action Plan, as part of the agency's Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBT) strategy. John's presentation brought the SWAC up-to-date on mercury reduction activities at Ecology. In addition to three memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that have some implications for local hazardous waste programs and interests, John talked about other mercury-related efforts at Ecology and around the state.

Ecology signed its first MOU with the Washington State Dental Association in 2003, which will wrap up in August 2005. The dental MOU's goal is to capture waste mercury from dental offices before it goes down the drain, into solid waste collection, or into biomedical waste streams. The second MOU is targeted to begin with the Washington Hospital Association in July '05. Third, Ecology is beginning to develop a MOU with the Automotive Recyclers of Washington.

CPG Guidelines/Changes – Kristen Dorwin and Cullen Stephenson

Kristen Dorwin and Cullen Stephenson provided a summary of major changes to the Coordinated Prevention Grant program:

The Department of Ecology is in the process of revising the guidelines for the 2006-2007 Coordinated Prevention Grant cycle. Kristen discussed why the CPG guidelines are being changed, the process for changing the guidelines, and the major changes that Ecology is making to the guidelines.

The CPG guidelines are being changed for three reasons: to meet the requirements of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, to increase information sharing about grant projects statewide, and to increase the funding available for the "supplemental" grant cycle.

The changes are being made with input from grant recipients statewide. Ecology gathered input at the State Solid Waste Summit in June 2004, and then worked with the CPG Workgroup (a stakeholder group of local government grant recipients) to revise the guidelines. Ecology then collected comments on the draft guidelines from grant recipients at 5 feedback sessions (Lacey, Bellevue, Ephrata, Spokane and Tacoma). The CPG Workgroup is now working with Ecology grant officers to incorporate the comments into the final guidelines document.

Major changes in the CPG guidelines include changes to the forms, the minimum threshold score and the “supplemental” grant cycle. The annual report form is no longer required for CPG and the application form and final performance analysis form have been updated. The minimum threshold score process has been updated, and now includes an opportunity for applicants to rewrite applications that do not meet the score. The “supplemental” cycle has been re-named as the “off-set” cycle. The off-set cycle has updated criteria and is now off-set from the regular cycle by one year. Off-set cycle grants will now be awarded by a committee that includes representatives from planning jurisdictions and health jurisdictions.

The draft Guidelines document is available on Ecology's website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/cpg.html>. The final document will be available on July 1, 2005.

There was also a disappointing budget outcome from this session that cut Coordinated Grants funding by about \$8M. We discussed strategies for restoring this cut, and how to best involve SWAC in the effort. Ecology will be working with local government to request an approximately \$8 million supplemental budget add during the 2006 Legislative session. Local government involvement is essential for the success of this effort.

Beyond Waste Status Report and Beyond Waste Preview for July Discussions on current System Background Paper and Performance Indicators - Cheryl Smith

Cheryl handed out a copy of the updated Beyond Waste Implementation Status Report. It is organized around the 13 categories of activities. To see what has changed since the March report, look at the bolded information in the right hand column. Listed on the back page are the folks working on the various projects. Highlights of new activities include:

- Statewide home composting assessment;
- Consortium of electronics manufacturers exploring models for using Third Party Organizations;
- Mercury MOUs under development with Auto Recyclers of Washington and Washington State Hospital Association;
- Continued progress on the PBDE Chemical Action Plan;
- Establishment of BuiltGreen Washington coalition;

Cheryl also talked with SWAC members about the Beyond Waste Plan background paper on the current status of solid waste management in Washington. It was agreed that the SWAC subcommittee will continue to work on this and will deliver a draft paper for review at the July SWAC meeting.

It was also agreed that the July meeting will include a presentation and discussion of draft Beyond Waste performance measures, and also a demonstration of the redesigned Beyond Waste website.

Legislative/Budget recap and discussion

Overall, Ecology did quite well in the budget arena. We received authorization for 43 additional staff to work on streams/Water Resources, Beyond Waste). We were asked to cut 46 FTEs (mid-managers).

We were allocated \$10 million instead of the \$18 million we had planned for. This “cut” happened in the final 24 hours of session due to a lack of understanding by the legislators and their staff. Ecology will work with local government to get some of this funding back.

Legislation

Tires: SHB 2085 passed with a \$1 per tire fee. We’re not sure how it will shake out. We have been allocated \$150,000 to do a study on tire piles (who owns, how much cleanup is involved, what’s the priority). We will bring this study back to the legislature next session. Sen. Honeyford has asked for a cleanup of the Ty Ross/Goldendale tire pile.

The covered loads bill passed.

The sham recycling bill also passed. Recycling companies will register with Ecology reporting the products they will collect.

Future topics for SWAC

- Mercury Switches
- Briefing on how solid waste integrate the PBDE program
- Barriers to recycling—preventing sham recycling and coming up to money to implement enforcement (how does the SWAC facilitate that?), who has authority?
- Sudden oak death
- Food waste (how industries handle)
- Compost (marketable product); identify and protect compost businesses from problematic wastes.
- Contaminated soils
- State leading by example on projects such as procurement by General Administration and Dept. of Transportation. They don’t seem to be clued in on the Beyond Waste Plan. How do we stress this to those groups and get them on board?
- Updates on Coordinated Prevention Grants (CPG); educating legislators and their staff on the importance of CPG.
- \$2 million cut in litter program

Roundtable

Dennis Durbin: Stevens County is running out of cover material for their landfill. They have started using log yard waste to cover the garbage. They have a contract with the owner of an adjoining 80 acres near the landfill to use their log waste.

Lorie Hewitt: The Terry Husseman School Awards ceremony was held May 19. Also, Megan Warfield is working with the Washington State Patrol on the enforcement of litterers.

Pete Keller: Recovery1 is no longer accepting hog fuel derived from demolition debris because of mercury pollution. They ran tests on feedstock and were finding too much mercury in stumps and logs.

Rob Guttridge: Clark County has adopted an environmental purchasing policy.

Suellen Mele: The Electronic Subcommittee of SWAC is planning two meetings. The first one in early June. Also, King 5 ran a story on the illegal dumping of computers in Mason County. The computers had state tags on them.

Gerald Tousley: Thurston County's mercury switch program's big concern is pulling the mercury out of the switches.

Attendees

Colling, Ken, Goodwill Industries Dean, Bill, Thurston County Health Dennis, Linda, Smedes & Assoc. Dorwin, Kristen (presenter), Ecology Dunn, Pat, Les Schwaub & LRI Durbin, Dennis, Stevens County Elliott, Vicki, WA Utilities and Trans. Fox, Helen, Ecology Gee, Jan, WA Food Industry & WA Retail Assn. Guttridge, Rob, Clark County Hein, Dennis, City of Spokane Hewitt, Lorie, Ecology Jackson, Sego, Snohomish County Keller, Pete, Rabanco Large, Dean, Waste Connections LeMay, Doug, LeMay, Inc.	Lovaas, Brad, WRRRA Matsuyama, Jim, NE Tri-County Health Mele, Suellen, WA Citizens for Resource Conservation Ridgway, John (presenter), Ecology Schille, Bob, Waste Management, Inc. Smedes, Jerry, Smedes & Assoc. Smith, Cheryl (presenter), Ecology Snyder, Jody, LRI Starry, Art, Thurston County Health Stephenson, Cullen, Ecology Tousley, Gerald, Thurston County Health Wamback, Steve, Pierce County Westmoreland, Eddie, Waste Connections Inc.
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